(d) whether the Government propose to re-open its repair shop in its existing show room in the capital and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) HMT 's authorised service agents in Delhi and elsewhere in the country are appointed as per Company's norms in terms of facility and equipment available for repairing. Also HMT has a fixed standard schedule of charges for different repair jobs.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply at (a) above

Funds for Import of Fertilizers

3642. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated Rs. 2,000 crores ($ 800 million) in hard currency for immediate purchase of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons there for;

(c) how these fertilisers will be priced, distributed and sold to the farmers; and

(d) the steps taken to step up production of fertilizers in the county - both in the public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Foreign exchange is required to finance the import of fertiliser in which we are not fully self-sufficient.

(c) The maximum price of fertiliser per tonne is fixed by Government and the consumer price of fertiliser is uniform throughout the country. The fluctuation in the price of imported fertiliser is absorbed by Government and this has no bearing on the price paid by the farmer. The fertiliser is distributed in the country through the network of dealers both under the cooperative and public sector.

(d) The Eighth-Five Year Plan envisages the setting up of new units and also expansion of certain existing units. The modernisation, rehabilitation and retrofitting of some of the existing plants are also being considered in the interest of increas in the production.

Transport Subsidy to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3643. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the claims of transport subsidy from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are lying pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which these claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The Union Territory Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has submitted two claims amounting to Rs. 2,79,15, 674/- under the Transport Subsidy Scheme. The eligible claims will be paid when funds become available.

Industrial Growth Centres In Karnataka

3644. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: